

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02856 061624Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/079 W

-----019648 061626Z /14

O 061545Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5329
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS ATHENS 2856

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS' COMMENTS ON DECISION TO LIFT EMBARGO

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAS NOW ISSUED HIS FIRST
PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO ASK
CONGRESS TO REMOVE THE EMBARGO. SPEAKING TO GREEK NEWSMEN
TRAVELING WITH HIM FROM ROTTERDAM TO ROME APRIL 5,
THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT "AT THIS MOMENT" HE DID NOT
THINK HE SHOULD ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
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AVEROFF SAID ON APRIL 2 ON BEHALF OF THE GOG.
(AVEROFF, IN THE ONLY GOG PUBLIC COMMENT SO FAR, STATED, "
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS RIGHT AND FAIR TO PROPOSE THE
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO BEFORE THE TURKISH SIDE SUBMITS ITS
PROPOSALS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, WHICH TURKEY SAID WOULD BE
'REASONABLE'".

2. NOTING THAT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS WILL BE A LENGTHY PROCESS, CARAMANLIS ADDED THAT "THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO SPEAK OUT, IF NECESSARY." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHAT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS POINT IS THAT "WE FOLLOW THE MATTER CALMLY AND AT THE RIGHT MOMENT TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS."

3. ASKED WHETHER A PROTEST HAD BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON BY THE GOG, CARAMANLIS RESPONDED, "THE QUESTION IS UNNECESSARY, IT IS OBVIOUS." WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED, "IT IS NATURAL THAT WE PROCEED WITH SUITABLE ACTIONS." HE ADDED THAT, "THE GREEK SIDE SEPARATES CYPRIOT MATTERS FROM GREEK-TURKISH AFFAIRS. IT IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN ONE AREA INFLUENCE THE CLIMATE."

4. THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WERE QUOTED WIDELY IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO ATHENS TONIGHT AT 9 PM. MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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